

Dear Dog Lover,

Our monthly story at the end of this email: “Summer with your dog!”

If you receive this email in full html, you can just [click on the events underlined and in light blue](#) to go directly to the correct page on our web site!

Stay safe,
Claudia

Our May Newsletter:

PART I: News

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PART I: News

 **BetCo is slowing down to accomodate June workshops, but coming back strong after that!**

Late May and all of June are full of 1-day workshops, but we're already also planning our summer and fall classes - one of the highlights for July being our High School Class. This class is great for all Elementary School graduates, but can also be suitable for some Puppy 2 and Foundation Class finishers. High School class practices “real life situations” in a playful way and prepares for the 10 items of the [Canine Good Citizen®](#) - test.

With no new classes offered in June, we'll be taking our students out on field trips the first three Tuesdays in June for Treibball and Nose Work practices. We'll announce later where exactly we'll go, but the times are already on the calendar. Anybody who has completed any Treibball class can come to these practices, and all dogs having graduated from an Intro to Odor class are welcome to our Nose Work field trips.

PART II: Events

Agility trials to watch: dates and host clubs listing

I don't claim that this list is complete, but here are some agility trials you can check out to learn more about this addictive sport. They all LOVE to have spectators, will be happy to answer your questions (unless their dog is next on the course) and you can even volunteer for little jobs, getting more insight and staying warmer than just watching. It's easier (and at some trials required) to leave your dog at home or in the car.

April 26/27: NADAC Agility trials in Wasilla - [Matanuska Agility Canine Handlers](#)

May 2/3/4: AKC Agility trials in Wasilla - [Cook Inlet Kennel Club](#)

May 17/18: NADAC Agility trials in Anchorage - Arctic Streakers Agility Club

June 6: ASCA Agility trial in Chugiak - Alaska Australian Shepherd Club

June 7/8: NADAC Agility trials in Chugiak - Alaska Australian Shepherd Club

June 14/15: AKC Agility trials in Chugiak - Obedience Training Club of Chugiak

July 18/19/20: AKC Agility trials in Wasilla - German Shepherd Dog Club of Alaska

Aug 8/9/10: AKC Agility in Chugiak - Obedience Training Club of Chugiak

Aug 16/17: NADAC Agility trials in Anchorage - Arctic Streakers Agility Club

May 17/18: Nose Work Trials in Wasilla - volunteers get to see the most!

This new sport is great for all dogs that have a nose (who doesn't?!), and volunteering gives you the best insight! While there are few spectator opportunities at a Nose Work trial, **volunteers are able to see all the different dogs** - using their nose to find a little swab with a specific essential oil scent on it - and watch how different handlers and dogs cope with the different types of hides. Competitors can only see their own dog, not any other dogs/handlers, so volunteering before you compete is highly recommended! Contact Cheri at stoneridgeak@gmail.com for more info.

Pet Expo in June

Join us again for a great event in Anchorage, this time **at the Dena'ina Center!!!** The Better Companion will have a booth there and look forward to seeing you!

The **Anchorage Pet Expo**

Saturday, **June 14, 2014**

from 10AM to 6PM;

Call **1-800-977-3609 ext. 103** for booth space.

Free Admission - Bring Your Pet!

What can you expect at an Amazing Pet Expo?
- Fabulous Prizes, Giveaways & Fun for both the 2-Legged AND 4-Legged
- Adopt! Dozens of Rescue Groups and a Mega-Adoption Event
- Free Nail Trims
- Agility Demonstrations
- The Latest & Greatest Pet Products - and MORE!

PART III: Classes + Workshops

Summer Workshops - participate as an auditor!

We still have a few spots available even to come with your dog and can definitely take waitlist sign-ups for all our upcoming workshops: Shy Dog; Feisty Fido; Recall; Agility Weaves; Agility Contacts and Agility Jumps. But even if we fill up and can't get you in with your dog, **auditing for half price can be very beneficial:** You can observe the others and write notes without having to attend to your own dog; you'll see all the techniques and methods used on different dogs; you'll receive the same paperwork the working spot students will have (not all workshops); you are actively involved in all questions and answers segments; in some workshops you'll be more than an observer - you'll actively participate.

Flyball back on the schedule!

We finally found dates for a **Flyball Beginner** class and **Flyball Practice**. Flyball will be held outside on our fenced, groomed field and postponed to the next week if weather isn't cooperating.

We plan for 4 weeks but could end up finishing later if we have to postpone a week.

Start date: Wednesday, August 13

Times: Flyball Beginner: 5-6pm

Flyball Practice: 6:15-7:15pm

Last year several of the beginners stayed (and paid) for the practice afterwards each week and the dogs LOVED it! We take only 6 dogs maximum for the class to allow enough individual time for everybody.

PART IV: Open Play Time and Doggy Daycare

Next Scheduled Closures

OPT every Friday evening
 Next scheduled closure: **May 23 (Memorial Day weekend)**

We hope to be able to take OPT outside onto the field sometime around Memorial Day...

DDC every Tuesday and Thursday
 next scheduled closure: **Thanksgiving?** ☺

PART V: Class Schedule

Listed are start dates. The classes will run one hour, once a week for 6 weeks unless otherwise specified. A **“maybe” for a class means YOU can tell us** if you want this class to happen. Enough student interest could put it on the schedule! ☺

Click [here](#) to view the online calendar by month. To see who’s instructing the class you’re interested in, go to our online [calendar](#) and click on any week of that class to see the details.

Click [here](#) to register for a class.

Already registered? Click [here](#) to pay for a class.

Or contact us by email or phone: info@bettercompanion.com, (907) 357-2521.

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>May 2014</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>later</u>
<u>Behavior Classes</u>	Workshop Shy dog	Workshops Feisty Fido, Recall		
Puppy 1	Thu 5/15		Wed 7/9	July 2014
Foundation Class	Thu 5/15		Wed 7/9	July 2014
Puppy 2	Wed 5/14		Thu 7/10	July 2014
Elementary School	Wed 5/14		Thu 7/10	July 2014?
High School			Thu 7/10	July 2014
CGC-test (one day)				Sep 2014
C.L.A.S.S. - BA				Fall 2014
CLASS Evaluation				Fall 2014?
Tricks 'N Clicks				TBA - fall?
<u>Sports Classes</u>	<u>May 2014</u>	<u>June 2014</u>	<u>July 2014</u>	<u>later</u>
Rally College				Sep 2014?

Rally Practice	(4 times!)			TBA
Freestyle				TBA - fall?
Nose Work Beginner	Wed 5/14		maybe	or Sept
Nose Work Odor			Wed 7/9	or Sept
Nose Work Practice	Sat 5/10 (1 time)	Tue 6/3 (3 times)		summer 2014
Treibball Beginner				TBA - fall?
Treibball Intermediate				TBA - fall?
Treibball Practice	Tue 5/6 (2 times)	Tue 6/3 (3 times)	maybe	Aug 2014?
Flyball Beginner				Aug 2014!
Flyball Practice				Aug 2014!
Agility Puppy/Beg			Sat 7/12	Sep2014
Agility Skills	Sat 5/31 (Workshop)	Sat 6/7 + 6/28 (Workshops)	Sat 7/12	Sep 2014
Agility Sequencing	Sat 5/31 (Workshop)	Sat 6/7 + 6/28 (Workshops)	Sat 7/12	Sep 2014
Agility Trialing	Sat 5/31 (Workshop)	Sat 6/7 + 6/28 (Workshops)	Sat 7/12	Sep 2014
Weight Pulling				Fall 2014

You can check our web page www.bettercompanion.com for info on classes, doggy daycare, Open Play Times, our facility and schedule, read testimonies from other students, print out the registration form (or fill one out online) and more.

Or contact us by email or phone: info@bettercompanion.com, (907) 357-2521.

PART VI: Monthly Story

 **Summer with your dog!**

Summer is right around the corner and the sunny long days make us want to **plan something fun** outside. You have taken classes with us and would like to continue, but either the class you wanted has filled or isn't offered until later. What to do until then? Here're some ideas on how to **take the classroom outside** and enjoy time with your dog without the structure of a class.

Puppies and Foundation Class graduates: take them with you - on errands, to friends, camping, ... look through your class booklets to get ideas for exercises you could practice with them starting at home and in the yard, on your walks or even during a potty break while running errands. Which exercises will be most useful for you when going to a friend's house or on a trip with your dog? If you're waiting for your dog to behave better before taking them places, you'll wait forever. Take them now and they can learn! Remember to keep them on leash when out in public.

Elementary School and Rally graduates: practice heel, stay, turns, leave it for short distances while out on your walk/hike, during a potty break on your errands day or when traveling with your dog. Practice the exercises for emergency situations like a fire drill before you really need them. Have a chat with someone you meet on your walk while rewarding your dog for a Sit/Stay next to you.

Treibball students: Take your folders to remember the different exercises and practice them using different objects, e.g. 'line up' behind a chair or garbage can, send clock or counter clock around a tree, have them 'push' a bottle or coffee can towards you ...

Agility students: Soon you can take your own equipment outside and play with your dog! Don't have equipment? A jump is as easy as a broomstick on two milk crates, a ramp can be a 2x12 board leaning against a bench (make sure it doesn't slip off easy) and weaves are 6 sticks in the ground, 24" apart. A lot of 'flatwork' can be done - which you'll find in your agility class booklet from your last class, teaching the dog to stay on your outside (either side!) in a circle, how to switch using a front or rear cross, and teaching the dog the verbal cues to turn away from you for that rear cross or specific signals for right and left turns.

Nose Work students: Remember to increase the difficulty very gradually - either by placing an easy and paired hide when in a new distracting environment or by changing the hiding place in a comfortable search area. It's always a good idea to start with paired hides and after three or four successful searches have one or two plain hides (no food). Then change to something different. If you have a helper or spectator, let them videotape you! That gives you something to look at on rainy days, to analyze your dog's behavior and to learn the dog's cues about being on odor and finding the source.

Freestyle students: Are ordinary, daily walks with your dog getting boring? Do you feel like you are wasting your time waiting for your dog to potty? Turn your walks into dances! Practice spins and twirls as you go down your driveway! Let your pup weave between your legs as you march off down your favorite walking path. Turn on your iPod and DANCE to the music with your dog!

All playful social dogs: **Come to our Open Play Times** ☺. If you want your playful and dog friendly dog to romp around with other dog friends, meet up with other like-minded dog owners, start connections with future hiking friends or just for backyard gatherings, this is the place to meet! You'll know the people you meet are responsible, have vaccinated dogs and maybe even a common background in their dog training at The Better Companion.

Enjoy the summer! Share it with us if you can and we look forward to seeing many of you in the second half of this year for a class that fits you and your dog!
Claudia

Claudia Sihler, CPDT-KSA
(Certified Professional Dog Trainer - Knowledge and Skills Assessed)
APDT C.L.A.S.S. Evaluator
AKC CGC® and STAR® Evaluator
Member of The Dog Gurus
Member of Animal Behavior Networks

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